

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method of producing an immunogen, which method comprises polymerising a hirudin and/or a hirudin-like protein.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the hirudin and/or the hirudin-like protein are/is polymerized with glutaraldehyde.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2 wherein the hirudin is HV1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), HV2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), HV3 (SEQ ID NO: 3), P1 (SEQ ID NO: 4) or P2 (SEQ ID NO: 5).

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2 wherein the hirudin-like protein is a derivative of HV1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), HV2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), HV3 (SEQ ID NO: 3), P1 (SEQ ID NO: 4) or P2 (SEQ ID NO: 5) by way of amino acid substitution, deletion, insertion, extension, functionalisation or chemical modification, said derivative having anti-thrombin activity.

5. (Original) An immunogen comprising a polymerised hirudin and/or hirudin-like protein.

6. (Original) An immunogen according to claim 5 wherein the hirudin is HV1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), HV2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), HV3 (SEQ ID NO: 3), P1 (SEQ ID NO: 4) or P2 (SEQ ID NO: 5).

7. (Original) An immunogen according to claim 5 wherein the hirudin-like protein is a derivative of HV1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), HV2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), HV3 (SEQ ID NO: 3), P1 (SEQ ID NO: 4) or P2 (SEQ ID NO: 5) by way of amino acid substitution, deletion, insertion, extension, functionalisation or chemical modification, said derivative having anti-thrombin activity.

8. (Currently Amended) An immunogen according to claim 5, ~~6 or 7~~ obtainable by polymerising the hirudin and/or the hirudin-like protein with glutaraldehyde.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an antibody capable of binding to a hirudin or a hirudin-like protein, said method comprising raising antibody against an immunogen as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 5 to 8.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for the quantitative determination, purification or identification of a hirudin or hirudin-like protein, said method comprising raising antibody against an immunogen as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 5 to 8, and using the antibody thereby obtained in said quantitative determination, purification or identification.